

VZCZCXRO7755
PP RUEHLMC
DE RUEHLP #3294 3401228
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 061228Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1562
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 6354
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 3678
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7544
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4798
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2050
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0598
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 2123
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 3209
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1946
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 4248
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 4687
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 9272
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 0913
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 2080
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

S E C R E T LA PAZ 003294

SIPDIS

NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/06/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [BL](#) [VE](#) [IR](#)
SUBJECT: GOB ON IRAN-- MIXED SIGNALS

REF: LA PAZ 2222

Classified By: Ecopol Counselor Andrew Erickson for reasons 1.4 (b), (c) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) Deputy Javier Zabaleta announced in early November that Bolivia would support Iran's nuclear activities and oppose U.S. policy on Iran. Zabaleta criticized the United States' "double edged" policy and said the matter should be resolved via peaceful means, within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Organization.

¶2. (S/NF) Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera, on the other hand, told PDAS Shapiro November 29 that the GOB recognizes that Iran, like Iraq and North Korea, is a "special issue" for the United States. He said Bolivia would be "foolish to provoke" the United States regarding Iran, and that the GOB's priority is merely to maximize international cooperation and assistance. President Morales has announced that Bolivia will open embassies in India, South Africa, and in an unnamed middle eastern country (likely Iran).

¶3. (S/NF) Comment: There is much speculation that Venezuela continues to promote Bolivia's relationship with Iran. Sensitive reporting indicates that Iran delayed attempts to expand activity in Bolivia until after Venezuelan President Chavez' re-election. Now that Chavez has a clear mandate for another term, sensitive reporting indicates that Iran will use Venezuelan political cover to ramp up activities in Bolivia. End comment.
URS